

REMARKS

This Response is filed in response to an Office Action dated October 24, 2007.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-22 will be pending in the Application.

On January 24, 2008, Applicant's representative and the Examiner conducted a telephone interview. Applicant's representative discussed potential claim amendments and arguments. However, no agreement was reached. Applicant's representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview.

In response thereto, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to clarify the invention relating to the outer ceramic surface of the component.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by Nagaraj et al., Klabunde, Kirk-Othmer, Rigney et al., Vakil, Eppler, Tecle, Akechi, Skoog et al. and Demaray or their combination and thus, are in condition for allowance. As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-22 in a timely manner. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

McNEES, WALLACE & NURICK

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Dated: February 25, 2008